

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EB-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-07 EUR-08 INR-05 L-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 /046 W

-----041240Z 066391 /10

P R 041123Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 74

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY ROME

S E C R E T AMMAN 0058

LIMDIS

ROME FOR CIVIL AIR ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, US, JO

SUBJECT: TALK WITH KING -- JORDAN'S ACQUISITION OF 747'S

REF: AMMAN 0047

1. KING HAS PASSED ON SOME ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON
CURRENT STATE OF PLAY IN CONNECTION WITH GOJ'S
ACQUISITION OF TWO BOEING 747'S.

2. KING NOTED THAT AIRCRAFT WERE ORDERED FROM BOEING
BY UAE AMBASSADOR LONDON AND BOEING AGENT MAHDI
TAJER AS UNSOLICITED GIFT TO JORDAN OVER A YEAR AGO.
WHEN FUNDS TO PAY FOR AIRCRAFT WERE FINALLY NOT FORTHCOMING
IN LATE 1976 FROM UAE, BOTH JORDAN AND BOEING WERE LEFT IN
EXTREMELY DIFFICULT POSITION. WHILE BOEING HAS
ATTEMPTED TO HELP WORK OUT FUNDING THROUGH COMPLICATED
LEASE ARRANGEMENT TO JORDAN REQUIRING FREQUENT PRESENCE
OF AIRCRAFT IN US, KING WAS DETERMINED TO FACE UAE

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WITH PROBLEM DIRECTLY. HE TOLD ME THAT WHEN HE TOOK
AIRCRAFT TO ABU DHABI LATE LAST MONTH HE TOLD SHEIKH
ZAYED OF CIRCUMSTANCES OF "GIFT" AND SAID THAT IF UAE
COULD NOT HELP HIM, HE WOULD LEAVE AIRCRAFT IN ABU
DHABI FOR UAE AND "HITCH-HIKE" HOME TO AMMAN.

3. END RESULT WAS THAT SHEIKH ZAYED SAID HE WOULD

COMMIT \$30 MILLION NOW AGAINST COST OF ONE AIRCRAFT.
KING SAID TOTAL FOR BOTH IS NOW \$85 MILLION WITHOUT
SPARES AND GROUND EQUIPMENT. SHEIKH ZAYED ALSO
PROMISED TO LOOK INTO POSSIBILITY OF FINDING
ANOTHER UP TO \$12.5 MILLION TO COVER REMAINDER OF
COST OF ONE PLANE.

4. DURING VISIT TO QATAR KING SAID HE AVOIDED
MENTIONING AIRCRAFT PROBLEM UNTIL QATARIS PRESSED
HIM ON STATUS OF "NEW" PLANE. KING EXPLAINED, HE
SAID, WHAT HAD HAPPENED AND QATARIS VOLUNTEERED TO TRY
TO BE HELPFUL.

5. KING TOLD ME THAT SUBSEQUENTLY BOEING HAS APPLIED
FOR UP TO \$30 MILLION IN EXPORT-IMPORT BANK LOAN TO
COVER COSTS. IF LOAN CAN BE OBTAINED, KING SAID HE
WILL TALK TO EMIRATES AND QATAR AGAIN ABOUT FUNDING
THE REMAINDER OF THE COST OF THE AIRCRAFT AND SPARES
WHICH WILL BE IN EXCESS OF \$85 MILLION TOTAL MENTIONED
ABOVE.
PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT, AIRCRAFT SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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